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SPIDER-MAN
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Stan Lee Presents:

WATER

IF A SHATTERED UNDERSEA BASE EXPLODES TO THE SURFACE OF THE OCEAN... AND THERE'S NO ONE ALIVE TO HEAR IT...

...DOES IT MAKE A NOISE?

THE ANSWER IS: **YES.** A NOISE SOMETHING LIKE THIS...

SPLASH

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AHHHHH!!

IT'S OKAY! I GOT IT UNDER CONTROL!

NO NEED TO PANIC...

FWIZ

COULD YOU HAVE CUT IT ANY SHOCKIN' *THINNER*?!

INGRATE.

I *TOLD* YOU THERE'S NO NEED TO...

...*PANIC*!!

ALCHEMAX CORP...

MA, ARE YOU CRAZY?!

WHY, YES. WHY ARE YOU ASKING? I THOUGHT WE WERE ALL PRETTY MUCH AGREED ON THAT.

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN! HOW CAN YOU POSSIBLY WORK FOR MIGUEL, WHOM YOU'VE ALWAYS SAID YOU CAN'T STAND... AS PART OF ALCHEMAX, A COMPANY YOU HATE?

I'VE ALWAYS HAD A LOT OF... ANGER BOTTLED UP WHEN IT COMES TO MIGUEL. BUT I'VE MANAGED TO "BLOW SOME OFF" RECENTLY.

AND NOW I HAVE A CERTAIN DEGREE TO MAKE UP TO HIM.

HE NEEDS ME.

WHAT MY BROTHER NEEDS IS A SWIFT KICK.

WELL, MAYBE MY BEING HERE IS THE SAME THING.

BZZZ

MIGUEL O'HARA'S OFFICE... OH. HELLO, BORU.

AH... O'HARA'S FORMIDABLE GUARDIAN.

YOUR BOSS HAS OUR LIST OF DEMANDS. I WISH TO SPEAK WITH HIM TO LEARN HOW HIS "CONSIDERATIONS" ARE GOING.

I'D PUT YOU THROUGH IF HE WERE HERE. BUT HE'S IN CONFERENCE.

IF IT WEREN'T FOR MY ACCELERATED VISION, I'D **NEVER** BE ABLE TO PENETRATE THE HAZE OF THE WATER AND SEE THIS MONSTER'S JAWS COMING AT ME.

MY LUNGS ARE **SCREAMING** FOR AIR...

...AND THEN I WANT TO START SCREAMING, TOO...

BECAUSE **COMPANY** IS COMING.

STILL, WE ARE TALKING **SHARKS** HERE...

AND THE NEW ARRIVALS **MIGHT** PROVE MY END...

...OR MY **SALVATION**...

... AS MY TALONS TAKE A PIECE OUT OF MY OPPONENT.

I KICK OFF AND PADDLE LIKE MAD AS MY NEW COMPANION **THRASHES** AROUND.

THE OTHERS HAVE THE SCENT OF BLOOD, AND SUDDENLY MY PLAYMATE HAS **ENTREE** WRITTEN ALL OVER HIM.

BETTER HIM THAN ME.

I GOT BIGGER FISH TO FRY.

FIRST I GOT TO DO MY HERO THING AS SPIDER-MAN AND SAVE THIS **ALCHEMAX** EMPLOYEE.

FWIZZ

JUST HOLD ON!

THEN I'VE GOT TO STOP A WORKERS' STRIKE BACK HOME AS **MIGUEL O'HARA, CEO** OF ALCHMAX.

THIS SECRET IDENTITY IS A BIG PROBLEM--

HUH?

WHO THE SHOCK IS...

...THAT?

--AND I THINK I JUST ACQUIRED ANOTHER BIG PROBLEM...

CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT *HAPPENED?*

MIGUEL O'HARA HAD SENT YOU PEOPLE IN AN EXPLORATORY VESSEL TO SEE *WHY* WE'D LOST TOUCH WITH NEW ATLANTIS...

...AND THEN HE SENT *ME* WHEN WE LOST TOUCH WITH *YOU*...

OH, WE FOUND OUT ALL RIGHT.

WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN. SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT *COMING*.

THE NEW ATLANTIS PROJECT WAS *SUPPOSED* TO BE THE BOLD NEW DIRECTION IN UNDERSEA EXPLORATION. EXPLORING AND *EXPLOITING* THE OCEAN DEPTHS.

HUMANS LIVING IN AIRTIGHT DOMICILES WHILE GENETICALLY DESIGNED UNDERSEA *MUTATES* DID ALL THE HEAVY-DUTY OUTSIDE WORK.

IT WAS THE IDEAL SITUATION... AS LONG AS THE CONCEPT OF *SLAVERY* DIDN'T BOTHER ANYBODY.

UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE INHABITANTS OF NEW ATLANTIS, IT STARTED TO BOTHER THE MUTATES... *A LOT.*

THEY RALLIED AROUND ONE IN PARTICULAR... THE MOST DYNAMIC AND FORCEFUL OF THEM.

HE CALLED HIMSELF "ROMAN" IN IMITATION OF THE LEGENDARY NAMOR THE SUB-MARINER.

THE HUMANS THOUGHT THAT SERVITUDE HAD BEEN INDELIBLY BRED INTO THE MUTATES.

THEY WERE WRONG.

THE HUMANS WHO FOUGHT BACK... DIED. A HANDFUL WERE KEPT BY THE MUTATES FOR... HIDEOUS EXPERIMENTS. THE REST WERE ALLOWED TO LEAVE, WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT ANY WHO TRIED TO RETAKE ATLANTIS WOULD BE KILLED.

MR. STONE ORDERED A COUNTER-OFFENSIVE TO BE LAUNCHED. WE...

I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO SURVIVED.

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NOW, S-MAN? WHAT DO YOU THINK MR. O'HARA IS GOING TO DO?

OUR OVERSEAS INVESTORS ARE VERY CONCERNED OVER THIS NEW ATLANTIS BUSINESS. THEY'RE WORRIED THE MUTATES WILL ATTACK THE U.S./EUROPE TUNNEL.

THEY'RE ALSO WORRIED THAT ANY VESSEL CROSSING THE ATLANTIC--ABOVE, ON OR BELOW THE SEA--IS FAIR GAME.

THEY'VE DECLARED INDEPENDENCE FOR THEMSELVES. SHOULD WE PENALIZE THEM FOR THAT?

WELL. I'M NOT SURE. I KNOW HE WAS IN THIS BIG MEETING WITH SOME HIGH-POWERED BUSINESS TYPES... BUT I, UHM... DON'T KNOW WHAT WAS SAID... THOUGH I'VE HEARD RUMORS...

AS I RECALL, A FEW HUNDRED YEARS AGO, AMERICA DID THE SAME THING.

AND THE BRITISH DIDN'T SIMPLY SHRUG AND TURN AWAY. THEY *FOUGHT BACK* TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR COLONY.

BUT THEY DID THE *WRONG* THING!

NO, THEY DID THE *RIGHT* THING. IT JUST TURNED OUT WRONG... FOR THEM. THE POINT IS, *SOMETHING* MUST BE DONE.

O'HARA SAN... BE AWARE THAT STARK-FUJIKAWA *AIDED* ALCHEMAX IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW ATLANTIS.

WE HAVE A VESTED INTEREST, AND I SUGGEST YOU RECTIFY THE SITUATION... *IMMEDIATELY.*

IT WOULD *NOT* BE *ADVANTAGEOUS* FOR YOU, SHOULD WE DECIDE YOU DO NOT CARE ABOUT OUR COMPANY'S FINANCIAL CONCERNS.

IS THAT A *THREAT*, HIKARU-SAMA?

A *THREAT*? NO, OF COURSE NOT. MERELY...

...AN OBSERVATION WITH POTENTIALLY *DIRE* CONSEQUENCES.

SO WHAT'S MR. O'HARA GOING TO *DO*? WILL HE LEAVE NEW ATLANTIS *ALONE*?

I DON'T THINK THAT'LL BE AN *OPTION* FROM... WHAT I *HEAR*...

HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO *FORCE* THE MUTATES OF NEW ATLANTIS TO TURN CONTROL OF THE CITY BACK TO ALCHEMAX.

THEY'LL NEVER DO IT.

THEY'LL HAVE TO. IT'S NOT THEIR CITY, AND I THINK THEY WON'T BE ALLOWED TO KEEP IT.

THERE'RE TOO MANY PEOPLE WHOSE NOSES WILL BE OUT OF JOINT. BUT DON'T WORRY... IT'S NOT GOING TO BE YOUR CONCERN.

ACTUALLY...

...IT IS!

NO! JUST COMPLETING MY MISSION!

LONG LIVE NEW ATLANTIS! LONG LIVE THE SUB-MARINER!

HEY! HAVE YOU GONE NUTS?

I TOLD YOU SOME HUMANS WERE KEPT FOR EXPERIMENTS! AND WE CAME TO UNDERSTAND THE RIGHTNESS OF THE MUTATES!

I WILL INFORM ROMAN OF YOUR ANSWER. AND I'LL WAGER, IN SHORT ORDER, YOU'LL HAVE HIS!

BUT I WASN'T GIVING AN OFFICIAL ANSWER! JUST THINKING OFF THE TOP OF MY HEAD!

MR. O'HARA MIGHT CHANGE HIS...

...MIND.

TERRIFIC.

THAT TOOK FOREVER. WHAT WERE YOU DOING, GETTING OVERLY CHATTY?

HE DIDN'T HAVE TO SEND THE SHARKON TO LEND AUTHENTICITY FOR MY SITUATION. I COULD HAVE CONVINCED THEM WITHOUT IT.

WELL IF YOU WANT TO TELL HIM HE WAS WRONG...

...HE'S RIGHT IN THERE. GO AHEAD.

UHM... SIR? I'M BACK...

YES, I KNOW. LET ME *GUESS*...

ALCHEMAX WILL *NOT* LET US GO. THEY WILL CONTINUE TO HAMMER US UNTIL WE *SUBMIT* TO THEIR AUTHORITY.

THAT IS CERTAINLY *SPIDER-MAN'S* IMPRESSION.

AH YES, SPIDER-MAN. THE NEWS PROGRAMS HAVE TOLD US *MUCH* OF HIM.

ALLY OF FORMER PRESIDENT DOOM. PUBLIC FACE, IT SEEMS, OF ALCHEMAX.

A CENTURY AGO, THE MIGHTY NAMOR ENGAGED IN THE SAME SUBTERFUGE UPON WHICH I SENT YOU:

HE GAINED ENTRANCE TO THE SURFACE WORLD DISGUISED AS ONE OF THEM. AND THE HUMANS BOASTED HOW THEY WOULD MAKE ATLANTIS AND ITS ARROGANT RULER *SUBMIT*.

I KNOW ALL THIS FOR HE LEFT A RECORD OF HIS LIFE... A *CHRONICLE*, IF YOU WILL... OF HIS LIFE AND TIMES. A LEGACY UPON WHICH I'VE MODELLED MYSELF.

WHAT DID NAMOR DO WHEN HE LEARNED OF THE SURFACE WORLD'S INTENTIONS?

HE TAUGHT THEM A LESSON.

ONE THEY WOULD *NEVER* FORGET.

SO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, MR. O'HARA?

I REALLY DON'T SEE MUCH CHOICE.

WE'RE OF THE SAME MIND THEN, SIR. I'LL PREPARE MAJOR STRIKE TROORS.

YOU'LL DO NO SUCH THING. I'M OPENING PEACE TALKS WITH THEM.

I... BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR?

YOU HEARD ME.

BUT... THEY'RE *MUTATES!* THEY'RE NOT EVEN HUMAN!

IT'S LIKE DEALING WITH A BARNYARD UPRISING BY TALKING TO THE COW INSTEAD OF SLAUGHTERING IT!

I DISAGREE. MUTATES AREN'T BARN ANIMALS.

THEY'RE NOT *EXACTLY* NORMAL HUMANS EITHER.

SOME OF MY BEST *FRIENDS* AREN'T EXACTLY NORMAL HUMANS.

I FEEL OBLIGED TO TREAT THEM AS SOMETHING *OTHER* THAN FREAKS; THEY'RE SUBAQUATIC, *NOT* SUBHUMAN.

WE'LL ARRANGE A VIDEO SIT-DOWN AND SEE WHAT CAN BE WORKED OUT, IN A WAY THAT WILL KEEP OUR VARIOUS ALLIES *HAPPY.*

IF WE CAN CONVINCE NEW ATLANTIS TO DO WHAT WE WANT OF THEIR *OWN* VOLITION, I'D RATHER GO IN *THAT* DIRECTION. THAT'S *ALL*, GENTLEMEN.

BUT MR. O'HARA, THIS IS RIDICULOUS!

I AGREE, SIR, IT'S A FOOLHARDY AND DANGEROUSLY--

GENTLEMEN, I BELIEVE HE SAID...

...THAT'S ALL.

YES, MA'AM.

SORRY, MA'AM.

BORU WANTS TO MEET WITH YOU. FIND OUT HOW HIS CONCERNS ARE BEING ADDRESSED.

TELL HIM I'LL BE THERE THIS AFTERNOON.

WHAT? MIGUEL, YOU SHOULD HAVE HIM COME HERE. DON'T GIVE UP YOUR HOME ADVANTAGE. IF--

MA, THE LAST THING TO DO IS THINK OF THIS PLACE AS MY HOME.

NOW SET UP THE MEETING.

YES, SIR.

DOWNTOWN...

FATHER? FATHER JENNIFER?

YES?

I...I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.

WHY, GABRIEL! THIS IS UNEXPECTED.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE FIRST MET, YOU KNOW. I... *REGRET* LOSING TOUCH. AND LIKEWISE REGRET THAT IT TOOK DANA'S PASSING TO... REACQUAINT US.

SO DO I. THERE'S A LOT WE NEED TO DISCUSS. STUFF THAT NEEDS TO BE DONE... TO GET READY..

I'M... I'M NOT SURE. Y'SEE... I'VE BEEN HAVING THESE *DREAMS*, FATHER. DREAMS THAT I KEEP THINKING... MAYBE *GOD* IS SENDING.

DREAMS OF FIRE AND FLOOD, AND EXPLOSIONS, AND ANGELS, AND...

FATHER, YOU'LL THINK I'M GOING NUTS, AND MAYBE I *AM*...

WHAT... SORT OF "STUFF," GABRIEL?

DREAMS OF *WHAT*, MY SON?

BUT I FEEL LIKE I'M DREAMING ABOUT THE END OF THE WORLD.

I'M MAKING A MISTAKE I'M MAKING A MISTAKE I'M MAKING A MISTAKE

NO, I'M NOT.

I'M MAKING A BIIIIIIIG MISTAKE.

AND WORST OF ALL, I'M TALKING TO MYSELF.

STILL NO SIGHT OF O'HARA'S LIMO, BORU. WE'VE GOT SPOTTING POINTS ALL OVER.

THE MEETING *HE* REQUESTED IS TO BE IN TWO MINUTES. AH WELL...I *EXPECTED* SUCH CHILD LIKE BEHAVIOR FROM HIM.

HE JUST WANTS TO YANK US AROUND, TO SHOW HOW MUCH BETTER THAN US HE IS.

SOON WE'LL BE INFORMED THAT HE SENDS HIS *REGRETS*, THAT HE WISHES IT'D BEEN WORTH HIS TIME TO...

YOU KNOW, YOU GOT A MAJOR LEAGUE *CHIP* ON YOUR SHOULDER? WHAT HAPPENED, DID IT FALL OFF FROM YOUR *HEAD*?

YOU? HOW DID YOU *GET* HERE? WHERE'S YOUR LIMO?

I WALKED. IT'S *LOVELY* TODAY WITH NO ACID RAIN EXPECTED. AND THE LIMO SEEMS KIND OF *PRETENTIOUS* DON'T YOU THINK?

AYE, I THINK THAT INDEED.

WELCOME TO DOWNTOWN, MR. O'HARA.

CUUUUUTE. SQUEEZING MY HAND, PLAYING STRENGTH GAMES TO SEE IF HE CAN INTIMIDATE ME.

OKAY. TWO CAN PLAY THAT.

THEY'RE HOLDING HANDS AN AWFUL *LONG* TIME.

ODD I THOUGHT YOU SAID THERE WAS NO FORECAST FOR RAIN.

THERE *WASN'T*. I WONDER WHERE THAT WATER IS COMING FR--

LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE MORE TAKEN WITH EACH OTHER THAN WE *THOUGHT*

RUUUUUMBLE

A FLOOD! DOWNTOWN IS BEING *FLOODED OUT!*

BLAST YOU, O'HARA! THIS IS *YOUR* DOING, ISN'T IT?!

MINE? I'M *HERE WITH* YOU, YOU BIG IRISH CHUCKLEHEAD!!

ELSEWHERE...

FATHER, LOOK! FIRE AND FLOOD! IT'S WHAT I WAS SAYING! I--

GABRIEL, SHUT UP AND GET IN HERE!!

AND FURTHER DOWNTOWN, AT CITY HALL...

HURRY! MOVE! EVERYBODY IN?!

WHERE'S O'HARA?!

I DIDN'T SEE HIM!

WELL I HOPE HE'S IN HERE, BECAUSE IF HE'S OUT THERE...

HE HASN'T GOT A SNOWBALL'S CHANCE IN H--

WHY'D I DITCH MY SHOES? I COULD'VE JUST *CARRIED* THEM.

OKAY... LET'S SEE IF I CAN SPY, WITH *MY* LITTLE EYE...

HUNNFFF

HUNNFFF

GAWD, MY PRIORITIES ARE OUT OF WHACK. STILL, THEY *WERE* NEW SHOES.

HOLY SHOCK!!!

EARTHQUAKE!!!

NO.

SEAQUAKE.

WE WISHED MERELY TO BE *LEFT TO OURSELVES!* BUT THAT WAS INSUFFICIENT FOR YOU!

--UUUFFFF!!!

SO NOW, WE MUTATES HAVE DECIDED THAT *WE* SHALL RULE *YOU* INSTEAD!

SO SWEARS *ROMAN THE FIRST*, THE SUB-MARIN--

YOU IDIOT! YOU'VE RUINED EVERYTHING!

ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS WAIT! YOU--

AND THEN A CASCADE OF WATER FOUNTAINS DOWNWARD, INUNDATING THEM, DRIVING THEM BELOW THE SURFACE...

RRRAARR

AND SUDDENLY, BOTH SPIDER-MAN AND THE SUB-MARINER FIND THEMSELVES IN VERY REAL DANGER OF BEING...

...TERMINALLY UNDERFOOT.

TO BE CONCLUDED!